

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 15 (canceled)

16. (new) A heat shield for use in a gas turbine, comprising:  
a support structure that extends in a peripheral and an axial direction;  
a plurality of heat shield elements arranged on the support structure abutting each other in the peripheral and axial directions of the supporting structure and having an axial gap and a peripheral gap between the heat shield elements; and  
a plurality of sealing elements that seal the peripheral and axial gaps,  
wherein the sealing elements that seal the axial gaps are at a different distance from the support structure than the sealing elements that seal the peripheral gaps.

17. (new) The heat shield according to claim 16, wherein the sealing elements that seal the axial gaps are arranged between the support structure and the heat shield elements.

18. (new) The heat shield according to claim 16, wherein the heat shield comprises a plurality of element retainers which secure the heat shield elements on the support structure in the peripheral and axial directions.

19. (new) The heat shield according to claim 18, wherein the element retainers comprise:

a plurality of first element retainers for securing the heat shield elements in the peripheral direction of the support structure, and

a plurality of second element retainers for securing the heat shield elements in the axial direction of the support structure, the second element retainers configured to also retain the sealing elements in the axial gaps.

20. (new) The heat shield according to claim 4, wherein:

the support structure has peripheral grooves extending in the peripheral direction of the support structure,

the second element retainers are configured as clamps with a clamp opening and a clamp section facing away from the clamp opening,

the clamp section is inserted into a peripheral groove in the support structure, such that at least part of the clamp projects beyond the peripheral groove to engage in a recess in a heat shield element to secure the heat shield element axially, and

the sealing elements are inserted into the clamps.

21. (new) The heat shield according to claim 20, wherein the clamp has engagement elements that engage a sealing element inserted into the clamp.

22. (new) The heat shield according to claim 18, wherein the heat shield elements comprise:

a hot side facing away from the support structure suitable for exposure to a hot medium,

a cold side facing towards the support structure, and

a number of peripheral surfaces connecting the hot side to the cold side wherein

first peripheral surfaces at two opposite sides of the heat shield element each abut a corresponding first peripheral surface of an adjacent heat shield element in the axial direction of the support structure to form an axial gap, and

second peripheral surfaces at two opposite sides of the heat shield element each abut a corresponding second peripheral surface of an adjacent heat shield element in the peripheral direction of the support structure to form a peripheral gap,

recesses formed in the region of the edges between the cold side and the first peripheral surfaces interact with the recess of the respective opposite peripheral surface of the adjacent heat shield element in the axial direction to form a holder for a sealing element arranged along the peripheral direction of the support structure,

the element retainers engage in the second peripheral surfaces of the heat shield elements, and

the second peripheral surfaces configured with securing sections which prevent displacement of the heat shield element relative to the element retainers along the second peripheral surfaces.

23. (new) The heat shield according to claim 22, wherein the second peripheral surfaces have grooves where engagement sections of the element retainers engage and where studs are arranged to form a stop for the engagement sections of the element retainers in the axial direction of the support structure.

24. (new) A heat shield element for use in a heat shield, comprising:  
a hot side exposed to a hot medium arranged opposite a support structure;  
a cold side arranged toward the support structure; and  
a plurality of peripheral surfaces connecting the hot side to the cold side which are provided to abut peripheral surfaces of adjacent heat shield elements, a peripheral direction of the support structure providing a peripheral gap and having grooves with a groove profile for engagement with engagement sections of element retainers which retain the heat shield element on the support structure,

wherein a stud is arranged in each groove to form a stop for the engagement sections of the element retainers.

25. (new) The heat shield element according to claim 24, wherein the stud extends through part of the groove profile.

26. (new) The heat shield element according to claim 24, wherein the stud extends through the entire groove profile.

27. (new) A heat shield retaining element, comprising:

an engagement section configured to engage grooves of a heat shield element, and having surface elements with a surface normal direction that extends in the direction of the opening of the groove when engaged in the groove; and

a securing section that inhibits displacement of the heat shield element when engaged in the groove.